

COUNTY BOROUGH  
of  
GREAT YARMOUTH  
URBAN AND PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
For the year 1945.

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Town Hall,  
Great Yarmouth.

1945.

To the Town Council of the County Borough of Great Yarmouth  
acting as the Urban and Port Sanitary Authorities.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Seventh Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health. Again this year the Report has been cut to the smallest possible dimensions and records only the vital statistics and changes brought about as a result of the War.

The outstanding event of 1945 was, of course, the end of the Great War in Europe in June, and the end of the Japanese War in August. These events have given rise to many problems connected with the transfer from war to peace conditions. It will be noted that the death rate has appreciably risen. This fact can be easily explained by the considerable fall in the Registrar-General's estimate of our population by 2,050 over the preceding year. One has reason to think that the real population figure is considerably higher. The birth rate was at the rate of 21.86, compared to 25.05 in 1944. This shows a decrease which can only be explained by the low estimate of population.

The Infantile Death Rate is remarkably low and reflects credit on the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, including Midwifery.

I am pleased to be able to report that in spite of a depleted staff, the various Clinics, Centres, etc., have all been able to function during the year.

I should like to thank the Chairman, and Members of the Health Committee, also the Staff of my Department for their loyal support during the year.

The comparative vital statistics for the year 1945 are shown in the following table:-

	<u>Great Yarmouth.</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>	<u>London.</u>	<u>126 Great Towns in- cluding London.</u>
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population.	15.67	11.4	13.8	13.5
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births.	21.72	14.6	53.0	54.0
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population.	21.86	16.1	15.7	19.1

I am, Mr. Mayor Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. WAINWRIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.

### HOSPITALS.

The Public Assistance Auxiliary Institution has remained open throughout the year, accommodating 150 patients and staff. Other patients have been placed in neighbouring Institutions.

The Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Hospitals have continued to provide the requirements necessary for the civilian population in addition to the treatment required for air-raid casualties and Service cases under the Ministry of Health's Emergency Hospital Service.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Borough Isolation Hospital remained open throughout the year. All civilian and Service cases of Infectious Diseases have been accommodated.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

In Great Yarmouth, Clinics have been held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Middlegate Street Rooms. As pointed out in previous reports these premises leave much to be desired, but attempts to find more suitable accommodation have so far been unsuccessful. The high prices prevailing for house property renders the acquisition of a suitable house difficult.

A Clinic has been held on Wednesday afternoons at the Old Cottage Hospital, Trafalgar Road, Gorleston. This has been well attended. An additional Ante-Natal Clinic has been held on Monday afternoons.

The Government National Milk Scheme for Dried Milk has worked satisfactorily. In addition Cod Liver Oil has been issued for children from birth to 5 years, and Orange Juice from birth to 5 years. Mothers have been able to procure Ovaltine, Lactagol and Adexolin.

Diphtheria Immunisation. In accordance with Ministry of Health instructions, this work has again been carried out satisfactorily during the year. The practise of sending out birthday cards on the first birthday has been very helpful.

The following figures show the number of children who have completed the course from 1st January 1945 to 31st December, 1945.

Under 5 years	365
5 - 15 years	75

During the year 591 ante-natal visits were paid to the Clinic. The total number of children under 5 years of age who attended the Centre during the year, and who at the end of the year were:-

Under 1 year	607
Over 1 year	574



## CAUSE OF SICKNESS.

### SCARLET FEVER.

93 cases were notified during 1945. The type has been mild and no death has resulted.

### DIPHTHERIA.

28 cases were notified during the year. Many of these cases were of a severe type, 3 deaths resulted in cases not protected by immunisation.

### WHOOPIING COUGH.

105 cases were notified during the year. This is an increase on last year. This figure represents only a proportion of the actual cases, as quite a number of parents do not call in a Doctor. No death was recorded.

### MEASLES.

179 cases were notified, most of these occurred during the second quarter of the year. As in the case of whooping cough a doctor is only called in a few of the cases.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

37 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary cases were notified. Accommodation for male cases at Kelling Sanatorium was adequate, but difficulty in finding beds for female patients was experienced at times. 25 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary cases died during the year.

### CEREBRO-SPINAL-FEVER.

There were 6 cases notified during the year. 1 death occurred.

### CANCER.

There were 61 deaths during the year - an increase over the previous year.

### RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

7 cases of pneumonia were notified. In spite of this figure, 26 deaths were returned as a result of pneumonia - in addition 28 deaths were returned as attributable to bronchitis and 8 to other respiratory diseases.

### DIARRHOEAL DISEASES.

3 deaths were recorded among children under 2 years during the year.

### MATERNITY MORTALITY.

1 case was recorded as having died from maternal causes other than puerperal or post abortive sepsis. 4 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.

### MALNUTRITION AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Unemployment has become almost negligible. The diet of young children has been augmented by the Government allowance of the following, specially rich in vitamins:-

Cod Liver Oil from birth to 5 years.

Orange Juice from birth to 5 years.

In addition, all school children can obtain milk during school attendance at a reduced cost or free.

The scheme for providing school meals was put into operation on the 9th September, 1942. It is becoming increasingly popular with both children and parents. During 1945, 296,831 school dinners were provided.

### TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC.

The Clinics at Yarmouth and Gorleston continued to function as usual during the year. There were 540 attendances in all, including 113 new cases. In addition, 212 contacts were examined.

In Yarmouth two clinics were held each week on Monday and Friday mornings respectively. For the benefit of those at work, an additional evening clinic was held from 6 - 8 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. Owing to blackout conditions this particular service was suspended during the winter months. The Gorleston Clinic was held each week on Thursday morning.

The usual practise of sending patients to Dr. Chalmers of Norwich for X-ray examinations has been continued. Those patients undergoing artificial pneumothorax treatment have received their refills at Norwich by Dr. Townsley.

When the medical staff is increased, I hope it will be possible for X-ray examinations to be carried out at the Dispensary by the Tuberculosis Officer. Also the necessary refills given for those undergoing artificial pneumothorax treatment. More frequent visits to the Sanatoria will enable the Tuberculosis Officer to get in closer touch with the patients under treatment there.

Extra milk has been supplied free of charge by the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee to those in need of extra nourishment, who are unable, for financial reasons, to afford it. Cod Liver Oil and Malt has also been supplied.

Clothing was provided in special cases from a fund administered by the Town Clerk, and from the resources of the Womens' Voluntary Services. Dental help was also given on the recommendation of the Tuberculosis Officer.

The Tuberculosis Nurse made 1292 domiciliary visits during the year, and 8 Ambulance journeys conveying patients to Sanatoria.

On the 9th May, 1943, the provisions under Memo. 266T were put into force under which new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were granted maintenance allowances for themselves and their dependants. These grants being reimbursable by the Ministry of Health. Miss Shipperbottom, the Tuberculosis Nurse, continues to act as Assessment Officer.

### ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Clinics have been held by Mr. McKee acting for Mr. Brittain when required. Operation work has been carried out at the General Hospital or Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich. The Convalescent Hospital is still at Cawston Manor, Aylsham. Some delay has been experienced in obtaining vacancies for Yarmouth patients. The work of the Clinic has been impaired by the difficulty in obtaining delivery of surgical appliances ordered by the Surgeon.

### VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

The new Special Clinic was opened on the 12th August, 1944, under Dr. T. J. Wright in premises attached to the Isolation Hospital, Estcourt Road. Staff is provided from the Isolation Hospital. The attendances have been satisfactory and it is evident that this additional Health Service is appreciated by those in need of treatment.

### HEALTH VISITORS.

There are two vacancies, but owing to war time difficulties it has not been possible to fill them.

### MIDWIVES.

The Municipal Midwifery Service has worked satisfactorily. The Ministry of Health Hostel has not been available since the 16th August, 1944, but all needs have been met. The following figures indicate the work done:-

Number of cases delivered by Midwives.	567
Number of births attended by Midwives acting as Maternity Nurses (including those practising privately.)	301
Number of cases delivered outside the town.	24
Medical Assistance sent for by Midwives.	48

### SCABIES.

The provision of hot baths at St. George's and Stradbroke First Aid Posts was continued. The number of cases treated during the year was 1327. Assistance to the Health Department in supervising the work has been given by the Civil Defence Personnel up to the 30th June. In addition, 39 intractable cases have been admitted into the Isolation Hospital.

### PEDICULOSIS.

In addition to routine cleanliness surveys of school children by the School Nurses, both Midwives and Health Visitors are using every effort by advice and help, to assist cases met with in their work.



Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting a resumé of the work of my Department during the year 1945. I must again remark the very short staff of Inspectors which still curtails much of the ordinary routine work of the Department.

#### Investigation of Complaints.

The investigation of complaints, Inspection and testing of drains and consequent execution of necessary works and repairs of course received full attention.

#### Offensive Trades.

Offensive Trades received regular attention - in one instance a notice was served, in 1944, under Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to discontinue carrying on an Offensive Trade (Fat extractors and melters, and Bone Boilers), the notice expiring on December 31st, 1944. This notice is suspended pending circumstances permitting its removal.

#### Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.

Much work was done in the examination of salvaged food stuffs for animal feeding, etc.

#### Sampling - Food and Drugs Acts.

131 samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Acts, 5 of which were milk adulterated with added water, or by the abstraction of fat. Letters of caution were sent.

25 samples of Pasteurised, 15 samples of T.T., and 2 of Accredited milk were also taken, these were found mostly satisfactory.

32 samples of milk were taken for examination for Tubercle Bacilli.

6 samples of raw milk were also taken for Bacterial Count.

A total of 214 samples during the year.

#### Water Supply.

The town's Water Supply was frequently sampled and submitted for analysis with satisfactory results.

#### Slaughterhouses.

Of the 15 in the Borough, 2 only are now used under the Government Slaughtering Scheme, but in spite of this fact a great deal more slaughtering is being done than in pre-war years, as we are still killing in the Borough for a great part of Norfolk. Without extra assistance, indeed with very short staff, I am again able to report having maintained 100% inspection, and that relations with the Government Slaughterhouse Staffs still remain most amicable.



Markets.

Regular inspections were made at the bi-weekly markets, food shops, stores and canteens.

Housing..

54 houses were condemned under Sec. 11 of the Housing Act as an emergency measure, but otherwise these very necessary activities had regretfully to be curtailed owing to the lack of alternative accommodation.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

Much useful work was again done under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act in the Borough, in the Port and on Shipboard.

I am Sir,

Yours obediently,

G. H. SPINKS.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING INSPECTED IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1945.

TABLE A.

	<u>Number Inspected.</u>		Number reported defective.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
	By the M.O.H.	By the Inspector.			
Foreign	2	8	2	2	Nil
Coastwise	17	65	18	16	Nil

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	<u>No. of cases during 1945.</u>		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Paratyphoid fever	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-
Chicken pox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during  
the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	<u>No. of cases during 1945.</u>		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
-	-	-	-

#### V. Measures Against Rodents.

No rat-catcher has been appointed especially for the Port, but the Urban rat-catcher acts. Ships in the Port are regarded as houses in the town. In this connection 96 ships were visited by the Rat Officer during the year. There were no ships from plague infested ports. No duly infested ship was found.

#### VI. Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.

TABLE J.

##### Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of vessel.	Number Inspected 1945.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other unhealthy conditions.
British	62	-	8	7
Other Nations	9	-	-	1

#### CANAL BOAT ACTS.

During the year 8 boats were inspected and these were generally found to be very clean and well kept, and in no case were there female or children permanently residing on board.

There has again been no case of sickness on board a canal boat during the year.

#### REGISTRATION MATTERS.

There were no fresh registrations during the year.



BLIND PERSONS ACTS 1920 and 1938,

HOME TEACHER'S REPORT,

For the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Miss Howe submits her Third Annual Report in connection with the work under the above Acts.

In view of the additional duties in connection with Blind Welfare it became necessary for help to be obtained, and in consequence Miss J. Dawkins was appointed as Assistant to the Home Teacher.

The statistical particulars are given below, the age groups also being shown:-

Number of registered blind, December 1944	192
Number of new cases during the year	9
Number of cases transferred into Borough	7
	<u>208</u>
Number of deaths during the year	14
Number of removals from district	8
Number of persons de-certified	3
Number of Registered Blind, December 1945	<u>183</u>

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 5 yrs.	-	-	-
Between 5 & 16 yrs.	-	-	-
" 16 & 21 "	1	1	2
" 21 & 40 "	6	9	15
" 40 & 50 "	8	3	11
" 50 & 65 "	27	21	48
" 65 & 70 "	9	15	24
Over 70 yrs.	<u>37</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>83</u>
	<u>88</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>183</u>

A scheme for free medical treatment to Blind Persons and their dependants who were not insured was inaugurated on the 1st April. Thanks are due to the doctors and chemists for their co-operation in this scheme.

Burnham Hall, Burnham Market, the Emergency Hostel which was opened in July, 1940, for Blind Persons and their sighted dependants under the Government Evacuation Scheme, closed down at the end of June. Accommodation was given by the Norwich Institution for the Blind to six blind persons, and 12 returned to their homes in the Borough or to live with relatives or friends.

Many of the evacuated blind have returned to their homes in the Borough, but 11 blind persons are still residing in Reception Areas.

Four persons are employed at the Norwich Institution for the Blind, also, one copyist is attached to the National Library for the Blind.

Application was made, during the year, for the State Blind Pension on behalf of three persons, and 19 applications were considered for domiciliary assistance. At the end of the year there were 126 recipients of the Domiciliary Assistance Grant.

During the year 551 visits were paid to Blind Persons and regular lessons given to a blind man learning Braille.

The fortnightly meetings held alternatively at Yarmouth and Gorleston are still very popular; the average attendance being Yarmouth 60, Gorleston 30. A Speaker or Entertainer is procured whenever possible. The Committee is indebted to the Voluntary Helpers who gave ungrudgingly of their time to help the blind at these meetings, also to the Trustees of both the Park Baptist Chapel, Great Yarmouth and the Wesleyan Chapel, Gorleston for the use of their Schoolrooms.

A fuel allowance of 3/6d. weekly was made to all blind persons in receipt of domiciliary assistance for 26 weeks during the winter months.

A Christmas gift of 10/- was distributed to all registered blind persons ordinarily resident in the Borough.

The amount collected at the Annual Flag Day was £184.16.3.

At the end of the year 138 free 'bus passes were distributed. This concession, given by the Transport Department, is greatly appreciated by the Blind.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

Supervision Officer's Report

For the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Miss Redhead submits her Seventh Annual Report under the above Acts.

15 new cases have been added to the Register during the year. This makes a total of 77 in Institutions, 3 in Residential Special Schools, and 95 on the Local Register.

Difficulty in finding suitable Institutional accommodation still prevails. 2 cases have been certified and admitted to Little Plumstead, and one male has been transferred there from Moss Side State Institution.

Three cases have been allowed out on Licence from Little Plumstead; two of which have had to return. One case on Licence has been placed under Guardianship.

Two cases have died in Little Plumstead during the year.

The Supervision Officer has visited the homes of cases resident in the Borough, and during the year 325 visits were made.

All new cases and the necessary following up in connection with them have been dealt with. Much time has been spent in Mental Testing. One child has been admitted to a Residential Special School.

The Occupation Centre was re-opened on the 3rd September, and 20 children are in attendance for half-day only, but it is hoped to make this full time at an early date.

Up to July Miss Redhead gave help in the general duties of the Health Department, but since then has been giving full time to her own specific work.





